



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

February 2008 Volume 69 Number 2

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



2008 is the HARC's 75th Anniversary Year



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421 Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Dave Nimo, VE1NN	462-3945	ve1nn@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	ve1hmr@rac.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	860-4454	bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD 876-0661 twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca

75th Anniversary Chair - **VACANT**

Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC
477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
2008 Flea market Chair - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - VACANT		
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
RAC Atlantic Dir. - Len, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Assistant Director of RAC for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

The **regular Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the new club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**. Directions to the St. Andrews Center are on page 10.

The evening's program will be February - "Celebrating the Past" - Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, will present on the history of HARC.

Guests are welcome

The HARC Reflector is also available on the web, a little after the paper copy (photos in colour) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org

Nametags bearing the club logo are available for \$5.00. If interested, please contact Dave, VE1NN

**Deadline for submissions
to the March Reflector is
Saturday,
March 8, 2008**

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Feb.	17	Doug	VE1LDL
Feb.	24	Pierre	VE1PTR
March	2	Herb	VE1HX
March	9	Win	VE1WIN
March	16	Emil	VE1ESP
March	23	Chris	VA1CDB



Puzzler - Do you know?

In what year was single side-band transmission patented? 1915, 1937 or 1942?



Answer is on page 10

Law of Logical Argument:

*Anything is possible if you
don't know what you are
talking about.*

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:

EMO Net: at 7:30 PM on 147.270 +
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on
147.270 + (VE1PSR/VHF)

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz

VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

February 23, 2008 – **Breakfast** with fellow hams Saturday, February at the Steak & Stein, 6010 Young St., Halifax. Time: 9.00 AM.

The NSARA Contest, promoting Amateur Radio in Nova Scotia, is a relaxed event that takes place on the second Sunday in March, March 09.

End of July – IOTA

August – The 7th International Lighthouse Day is intended to raise the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, promoting our maritime heritage.

Friday, August 22, 2008 — The Fifth Annual MARITIME DX FORUM
See page 5 for details

We are going to go with full colour on the covers in 2008 and also with 4 tabbed advertising sheets (8 pages) that will be used to separate major sections in the 2008 book. The breakdown of advertising rates for 2008 will be:

Prices:

	Regular Colour Tabs Clubs			
Back cover	\$750	\$850	—	—
Inside cover	\$450	\$550	—	—
Full page	\$300	—	\$375	\$150
Half page	\$175	—	\$225	\$85
1/4 page	\$125	—	\$150	\$65
Buss. Card	\$90	—	\$110	\$45

Please be sure to let Scott know who you are planning to approach with respect to advertising BEFORE you talk with them, just to make sure that he or someone else has not already made the ask.

Thanks & 73 Howard

How come when you mix water and flour together you get glue?... and then you add eggs and sugar ... and you get cake?

Where did the glue go ?

You know darned well where it went! That's what makes the cake stick to your BUTT



Contact Helen Archibald, VA1YL, for information about helping with GOTA (Guides on the Air). Helen is the CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association) coordinator for GOTA for all of Canada.

ARRL International DX Contest
Objective: US and Canadian stations work only DX & DX stations work only US and Canadians. See how many different stations you can contact in as many different geographical entities as possible

The CW portion of the ARRL DX Contest begins at 0000 UTC Saturday, Feb.16 and goes until 2400 UTC Sunday, Feb.17. The Phone portion runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 1 until 2400 UTC Sunday, March 2. Complete rules can be found online at <<http://www.arrl.org/contests>>. A primer on the event by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is in the Radiosport area of the March issue of QST.

Visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>.

"DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" can answer most questions about the **DXCC program**.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, #1
"Gil: A Collection of Classic Cartoons from QST" is more than a book of illustrations -- it is a tribute to a legend, a man who, over a span of 40 years, created more than 1500 cartoons and drawings for QST and the ARRL. The work of Philip "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD, became a tradition. In tribute to this talented, creative and devoted artist and ham, the ARRL presents in this book a reprint of a portion of the best of his work. Although he became a Silent Key in 1966, his characters live on. Still today, Gil's conceptions remain alive in the minds of both old-timers and newcomers to Amateur Radio. Get your copy at the ARRL Online Store <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0364>>

Silent Key

Jose "Joe" Barreiro, VE1INO, best known to fellow hams as Chico died
January 9, 2008
"his smile and laugh will truly be missed" by those who knew him.

Good morning all -

I am sorry to report the passing of Betty's mother last evening (Feb.7). Our condolences go out to both Betty (VE1BSW) and Tom (VE1GTC).

Murray, VE1MMD

RAC Bulletin #2008-2

New Maritimes Section Manager

Congratulations to Jim Langille, VE1JBL, who begins a two-year term as RAC's Maritimes Section Manager as of March 1, 2008.

Jim's nomination was uncontested thus removing the need for a balloted election. He replaces SM Hugh Clark, VE9HC, who did not seek re-election.

RAC VPFS Bob Cooke VE3BDB

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1,
New Prefix for Bosnia-Herzegovina
Officially Announced

In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was confirmed by the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference effective Nov.17, 2007.

Minister of Communications & Transport Dr Bozo Ljubic pledged support from the Ministry of Communications and Transport for the development of Amateur Radio repeater and digital networks that would cover the whole of the country, enhancing emergency communications capabilities.

The Maritime Net is back on 3.750 as of Friday evening, Feb.8, 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The days are getting longer and soon we will be setting the clocks forward, a sure sign of spring. With spring we also think of getting antennas back into shape and putting up new antennas. The club station is no different. Once the weather permits we will be getting the satellite antenna set up finished and then we can look forward to getting people up to speed on operating satellite as well as HF, VHF and UHF.

The Saturday morning sessions at the club station are gathering momentum. While they have been going for several weeks this will be the first written notice of their happening. The club is open Saturday mornings from 9 AM to noon and sometimes longer. Once things are established there are plans for tutorials on Saturday mornings, such as operating RTTY, digital modes, satellite and perhaps construction techniques etc. Perhaps you have something you wish to learn or perhaps you may have a skill to pass along to others, let Brian, VE1AZV or the executive know.

Speaking of letting people know what you want, like and dislike, please take the time to fill out the questionnaire you will be given or mailed in the next few weeks. See page 10 for the Take-30 program.

There are several upcoming events and Saturday February 16 is Guides on the Air (GOTA), if you wish to help out contact Brian, VE1AZV. The Ham Breakfast will be Feb. 23, see events on page 2.

This year we need member participation as never before. The anniversary celebrations will need many people doing many small tasks, but before that we still need a chairman for Field Day. This is an important job but only requires getting the people who will actually do the major tasks at Field Day. Most of these tasks are well defined and the chairmans job is to see there is someone doing the particular task. As in past years there are many people willing to take on a task and over see it. A couple of people have been approached but cannot take it on because of travel reasons. A volunteer would be appreciated, please come forward.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 11, 2008

With the appearance of Sunspot 981 (a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot) on Friday, Jan. 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that **Cycle 24 is now here**. "This sunspot is an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA.

It's predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots

Carl Luetzelshwab, K9LA, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ), says that "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts."

*The easiest way to find something lost around the house
is to buy a replacement.*

Passed along by Al, VO1NO / VE3

QST de W1AW Space Bulletin 002
ARLS002 From ARRL Headquarters,
Newington, CT Jan.23/08 to all
radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS002
ARLS002 AO-16 Satellite Serves as
Voice Repeater

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem. The satellite has since been recovered, and is now a voice repeater, at least for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but SSB voice on the downlink.

Since AO-16 was recovered approximately six months ago, the command team -- Bruce Rahn, WB9ANQ, Jim White, WD0E, and Mark Hammond, N8MH -- attempted to reload the satellite software almost a dozen times without success. The team performed a series of memory tests that pointed toward a hardware failure that prevented the spacecraft software from restarting successfully.

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said, "After concluding that the spacecraft computer system was damaged, and as discussions about decommissioning were taking place, Jim recalled a series of low-level commands that Tom Clark, K3IO, included in the spacecraft design during construction. One of these commands allows an uplink receiver to be directly tied to a downlink transmitter. The twist is that the uplink is regular FM, but the downlink via the BPSK transmitter is DSB (Double Sideband). Mark placed the satellite in this mode early this week and did some testing."

Glasbrenner also said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and

(Continued on page 5)

Do you remember last summer? For **Field Day 2007** we operated 2F from the HRM EOC. The S&R Command bus was released from a search in time to participate. And the new crank-up tower on the EMO trailer raised, supported and lowered the HF antenna with satisfying ease & efficiency.



Starting to set up the trailer



The trailer's tower telescoping upward



Doing antenna work on the Spicer Building roof.

Field Day 2007

Fraser, VE1WO, & Ralph, VE1RAR, on sideband



The Search & Rescue Command bus accommodated the 6 meter and satellite stations

Yes of course it rained. There was lots of blue sky, but it wouldn't have been a proper Field Day without some rain. Still, the outside work was done and those who did it were under shelter before the rain began and there was no lightning to threaten the equipment and delay the operators.

RESULTS: We placed first in Canada in the 2F class and third overall in the 2F class with a score of 8462. *And did I mention we need a Field Day 2008 Chair? -ed*



Mayor Peter Kelly and EMO Coordinator Barry Manuel accepted our invitation to visit

The trouble with life is there's no background music.

Dick, VE1AI, on CW



"You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."

Mahatma Gandhi

Scott, VE1QD, coaching Carol VE1CBW, & Frank, VE1FHW at the GOTA station



Safety Corner February 2008

By Terry, VE1TRB

Compact Fluorescent Lights

References:

1. <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=631>
2. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls
3. http://www.execulink.com/~impact/pur-lite_pro-9000X.htm
4. http://www.execulink.com/~impact/fluorescent_lights.htm#purlite



Compact Fluorescent Lights or CFL's are now available in almost every store you go into now. They come in different sizes, output levels, light temperatures, and you can get them dimmable now (ref 1).

Of course, just like anything else new, you may want to consider any associated hazards. These energy saving devices appear to have some concerns, such as what to do with them if they get broken, or finally burn out. Every CFL contains a small amount of mercury, which is considered to be hazardous to your health, however, the mercury is only a hazard if it gets out of the tube. CFL's made since 2007 contain less mercury than even the earlier ones. The average CFL is expected to last 5 years. So, what to do with them when they break or when they finally need replacement? Reference 2 will give you all the answers.

Finally, I'd like to address one other reported concern, and that is a possible fire hazard with a certain make of these bulbs (ref 3&4). Although the reference specifically addresses one particular maker, you may want to check all your CFL's just to make sure all are OK. The CFL of concern has been reported to overheat in the area where the tube exits the base section. The base section will appear to have burned, melted, or scorched somewhat.

**REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email at ve1trb@eastlink.ca.

(Continued from page 3)

with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

Glasbrenner said that he would like to open the satellite to general use for a test period. The uplink is 145.920 MHz FM, and the downlink is 437.026 MHz SSB \pm Doppler shift. He asks that users restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and do not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. Please submit reports via e-mail at ao16@amsat.org. "Enjoy this bird's new life!" Glasbrenner said.

**The Fifth Annual MARITIME DX FORUM
will take place Friday, 22 August 2008**

An invitation. The Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) is pleased to invite all Dxers, contesters and HF enthusiasts to the **Fifth Annual Maritime DX Forum (MDF)**. It will be held on Friday, 22 August 2008 as part of HARC's 75th Anniversary **Down East Hamfest** from 21 – 24 August 2008. For details about the full **Hamfest** program, visit our website: www.harc75.org

Venue. All the **Hamfest** events will be held in Roseria Hall at Mt. St. Vincent University on the Bedford Highway. There also will be inexpensive accommodations available on site.

The purposes of the Maritime DX Forum are to: 1) share our fascination for all aspects of Dxing, contesting and HF operating; 2) encourage greater HF activity among hams in the region and beyond; and 3) enjoy ham radio friendships. Spouses are welcome and will find many things to do in this prime tourist area. The evening Anniversary and DX Banquet, and other social events are for everyone.

Program. The MDF program on Friday will run from 8:30 am until 4:45 pm. Three speakers are already confirmed, and we are waiting on word from two others - both widely known and admired ham you will want to hear. The detailed program is presented below. The highlights include the following outstanding members of our ham radio community and their timely topics:

- Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM, explaining his work in *Replicating Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Wireless Feat*
- Anne Santos, WA1S, presenting the story of *The TX5C Clipperton Island Expedition* which in fact will only take place in March 2008!
- John Sluymer, VE3EJ, talking about *World Class Radio Competition and Contesting*. John was named Canadian Amateur of the Year for 2006 and was as well the winner of the World Radio Sport Competition in that year

Registration and Cost. The cost of the Maritime DX Forum is \$45, but we strongly urge everyone to register for the whole Hamfest and take advantage of the other events during the weekend. Registration can be done on the Ham Fest website: www.harc75.org If you have immediate questions, please contact the MDF Chair, Scott Wood, VE1QD, by e-mail at: ve1qd@rac.ca or by telephone at (902) 823-2761

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Welcome: President Bill Elliott, VE1MR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Silent keys:

Bill Elliott, VE1MR, advised members that Chico (Jose Barreiro), VE1INO, who resided on the Eastern Shore had become a silent key.

Approval of the Agenda:

Copies of the agenda for this evening's meeting were distributed.

Motion: THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed.

Moved by Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD. Seconded by Emil Pineau, VE1ESP. Approved.

Guests/visitors:

Scott Wood, VE1QD, introduced newly-licensed amateurs, Jim Warburton VE1OES, Bob Stewart, VA1RGS and Dave Charbonneau, VE1DDC.

Minutes: **Motion:** THAT the minutes of the November 2007 General Meeting be accepted as printed in the January Reflector. Moved by Doug Leblanc, VE1LDL. Seconded by David, VE1EDA. Approved.

Members in attendance introduced themselves.

Reports:

Treasurer: Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO, reported an income of \$252.02, expenses, which included recognition plaques, engraving, food and catering and space rental for the upcoming 75th celebrations totalling \$2180.73. A detailed report was provided for club files. See attached.

Motion: THAT the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Moved by Emil Pineau, VE1ESP. Seconded by Tom Caithness, VE1GTC. Approved.

Secretary: No Report

President: Bill Elliott, VE1MR, stated that Murray, VE1MMD, has agreed to serve as HARC's government liaison (all levels – federal, pro-

vincial and municipal). Bill advised members that Murray had been presented with a plaque of appreciation for his leadership in the acquisition of our new facilities at St. Andrew's during the HARC Christmas dinner.

1st Vice-President: David Nimmo, VE1NN, apologized that Christmas Santa had been unable to attend the Christmas dinner. David announced that the evening of January 24th is scheduled for a study course for those wishing to write exams. He asked that members contact him for seller's tables at the upcoming 2008 DownEast Flea Market.

2nd Vice-President: Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ, outlined social programs for the upcoming 5 months:

- January – Scott Wood, VE1QD, and Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, will present, "Anticipating our Future" to introduce a process for HARC members to direct the club.

- February – "Celebrating the Past" – Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, will present on the history of HARC.

- March – Neil Hughes, VE1YZ, will present on WinLink. Tom recommends that members visit the WinLink web site to read on line material about the system prior to Neil's presentation.

April – "Anticipating our Future", will be a follow-up outlining the results received from the Anticipating our Future process.

May – Larry Hicks, VO1HL, will present on software defined radio (SDR), which will be important for the future as youth will be interested in linking radio and computer. Tonight's door prize is a tool kit

Station Manager:

Coffee: Brian Allan, VE1AZV, reported that he, Murray Macdonald, VE1MMD, and Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, will open the doors of the club on Saturday to those who wish to drop in, pick up cards, have a coffee, from 9 -12 noon. If successful, we'll continue with the following Saturday. Should it not be successful on a weekly basis, the club will open one Saturday a month.

Password access: Access to the building is not a problem, but access to the club is an issue as no security is on the doors, yet, nor has there been allocation of members' codes. Brian will get the lists and passwords organized after which a short course will be held to familiarize members with new procedures. This will take place within the next few of weeks. At present, there is a high capacity server and PC's next to each radio. Passwords will be issued to those who are interested in using the gear. Equipment does have some safety built in, and the PCs do have. Access to the building is 8 am to 9 pm, with longer hours during the summer. A list of members who wish access to the radio room will be compiled and left at the front desk. Until password codes are active, members are asked to check in with the desk for access to club facilities.

Director at large: Nothing to report.

Past President: No report.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported there are 2 life, 14 assoc, 66 full members for a total of 82 current members.

Search and Rescue – No Report (Dave George, VE1AJP not in attendance)

EMO: No Report

75th Anniversary:

- Scott Wood, VE1QD, reported that HARC has been assigned event callsigns prefixes for 30 days, from July 25th until August 24th for members' use – VX1 for VE1 call signs, and VG1 for VA1 call signs.

- The DX forum program is complete and will soon be posted on line. Dave George, VE1AJP, has agreed to set up and run an alternative course titled, "The Far Side of Amateur Radio". The program may entail fox hunting, geo-caching, amongst other possibilities.

- The Hamfest web site, www.harc75.org, is under development.

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Information about the upcoming celebrations will be posted online and should be up by the first of the week. There will also be a link from the HARC main page.

· VE3XN, Garry Hammond, has agreed to be the forum and banquet speaker.

Amateur Radio Basic Course: Scott Wood, VE1QD, stated that Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, now oversees the basic course. On Thursday, 24th Jan, there will be a self-study course at the club station. Members are invited to forward this information to anyone who may be interested. To date, six candidates have been identified. More are welcome.

Christmas Dinner: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported over 74 people enjoyed the dinner. There has been no negative feedback. The food was timely, with all separate bills. It went well.

Other:

Legislation : Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, introduced a possible issue regarding new legislation that will end the use of cell phones in vehicles. Murray stated that when reviewing the initial bill, one section legislation would not apply is the use of an electronic device to report an emergency. However, when the bill was processed through committee, the wording got changed to "other communication device. At present, it is not known where the use of amateur radio equipment in cars will fall within this legislation. A phrase, "...prohibitive driver distractions" is used to define handheld cell phones and the penalties. Being aware that many businesses do have radio-equipped cars, we are, at present, uncertain as to the interpretation of "driver distraction", and "other communication devices". This is an example of how care must be taken when drafting legislation so as not to have an unanticipated impact due to

not being aware of the ramifications. This issue may also involve EMO and, of course, police, fire and taxi service. Use of amateur radio equipment ought to be excluded. Murray will make a discreet inquiry through the Department of Justice.

Old business: None.

New Business:**Notice of Motion:**

THAT Bob Burns, VE1VCK, be granted Life Membership in recognition of many years of dedicated work in managing the VE1/VE0 incoming QSL Bureau on behalf of the club. Bob took on the job when it had a large deficit and also serviced the VE9 and VY2 call areas. He successfully negotiated the spin off of the VE9/VY2 incoming QSL Bureau with the Moncton Area ARC and has also since worked the deficit down until it was gone. Bob also put many years of dedicated effort into the local packet network and ran the local packet BBS for the club during this time.

Moved by David Nimmo, VE1NN.

Seconded by Don Watters, VE1BN. Approved.

Notice of Motion:

THAT Barry Manuel, VE1JRG, be granted Life Membership in recognition of the support he has given this club over many years. Not only has he contributed to the club financially, but has supported the inclusion of Amateur Radio in EMO venues. He has also supported inclusion of Amateur Radio in EMO consultation processes. He has recognized the value of Amateur Radio in situations of disaster and emergency, and has actively supported, promoted and publicized it in a variety of ways.

Moved by David Musgrave, VE1EDA. Seconded by George Snow, VE1CAW. Approved.

QSL cards – Tom Caithness, VE1GTC. Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, stated that a number of QSL cards are coming through with call signs that have not been issued.

He advised that members be aware that this is happening.

Other-

SDR Transceiver Kit - Software Defined Radio : Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ, reported that he has received the SDR Transceiver Kit (40 and 30 m.), which he will build and have available when Larry, VO1HL, gives his presentation to club members in May. Tom clarified that a descent sound card is necessary. The cost for the kit is \$39.00. He'll bring a binder with display materials for members to view.

GOTA: Scheduled for Feb 16, Brian Allen, VE1AZV, reported that approximately 16 Girl Guides are expected to participate at the club for the Guides on the Air event. To date, Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, and Doug Leblanc, VE1LDL, will assist. All are welcome to come and help.

Ham Breakfast: A Ham Breakfast will be held in February. The date and site are to be confirmed; information will be published in The Reflector, on the web site, and via the Take 15 Net.

Draws: 50/50 draw of \$29.50 was won by Win Hartlin, VE1WIN.

The tool kit door prize was won by Emil, VE1ESP.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Doug Leblanc, VE1DLD moved the meeting be adjourned. A scheduled break was followed by a presentation, "Anticipating Our Future", given by Scot Wood, VE1QD, and Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

Early Canadian radio clubs:

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc., VE3DC, organized 1933. Their first Field Day activity was in 1934 where they topped all Canadian clubs and took 3rd place over all.

Source – From Spark to Space

RAC's web site is at www.rac.ca

Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

From the Mail Bag

Greetings to all,

I would like to inform all amateurs that as of March 1st 2008, I will be taking over the RAC Section Manager for the Maritimes from Hugh Clark VE9HC. I was asked by the past president of the RAC last November about taking on this position. I have talked to Hugh many times since, and he is in favor of someone new taking over. With his health problems, he finds it hard to get around and would like to see new blood take the reins. I would like to help set a positive example and be active as a Section Manager for the RAC and will be looking for info from all members. This is new to me so it will take awhile to get used to, but will give it my best.

Thanks, Jim Langille
President: Westcumb ARC
E-mail veljbl@rac.ca

Hello to all you DXers, Contesters and HF enthusiasts!

We are getting an early start with the MDF, since this year it will be part of a large Ham Festival celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. It will take place on Friday, 22 August 2008. All the details are attached regarding program planning to date, including an outline of what is going on at the Ham Fest.

Please put this Fifth Annual Maritime DX Forum as well as the Halifax Club's 75th Anniversary event on your calendars! We strongly encourage you to not only register for the MDF and our spectacular program, but also all the other great Ham Fest events from 21 - 24 August here in Halifax.

Let me know about your intentions to attend.

73, Scott, VE1QD

RAC Bulletin #2008-6 - RAC VPFS Names New Support Officials for ARES-NTS

The RAC Field Organization has named four persons who have agreed to fill newly-created departments in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System. As of February 1, 2008, the following volunteers assume their respective roles: Hew Lines, VA7HU, RAC National Traffic System Coordinator (NTSC); David Drinnan, VE9FK, RAC ARES National Training Coordinator (NTC); Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, RAC ARES National Emergency Coordinator (NEC); and Drew Watson, VA7DR, Manager of the RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database (CARED). These are support functions and will not supersede or replace Section appointments. RAC extends sincere thanks to these individuals for their unselfish willingness to serve. Full details as to their duties and responsibilities will appear in the March/April issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

-- Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, RAC
Vice President Field Services

Halifax ARC:

As a point of interest relating to your article in the last issue of the TCA magazine mentioning the CSS Acadia former survey ship. In 1939/40 I was radio operator on the CGS Wm. J. Stewart which was a survey vessel on the West Coast. The Stewart is now a hotel and restaurant vessel located at Ucluelet, Vancouver Island. It is now called the Canadian Princess. It is strictly commercial and there is no radio operation. The call letters when I was the radio operator was CGFQ.

It was also noted in the article this is your 75th anniversary and this is also my 75 year as a licensed Radio Amateur with the same call letters.

Al Miller, VE7KC

Subject: Maritime Net
Moving Frequency

TO ALL AMATEURS

I have made the decision to return the Maritime Net back to 3.750. This will take effect as of this Friday evening (Feb.8/08). Could I kindly ask all to let as many amateurs know about this change as possible. I will be sending a memo out to my Maritime Net Controllers.

Peter (VE1PJS)
Maritime Net Control Manager

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 2, January 18, 2008

Motorola Purchases 78% of YAESU's Parent Company

Motorola has announced that its subsidiary, MI, Inc, has successfully completed its tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard, parent company of Yaesu. Motorola launched the tender offer, in cooperation with Tokogiken (a privately held Japanese company controlled by Vertex Standard's president and CEO Jun Hasegawa) with the intention of forming a joint venture to develop and sell Vertex Standard products and develop select Motorola products. Motorola now owns approximately 78% of Vertex Standard and through restructuring will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard, while Tokogiken will retain a 20% stake.

My neighbour was bitten by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically on a piece of paper. I told him rabies could be treated, and he didn't have to worry about a Will. He said, "Will? What Will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 2
January 18, 2008

The author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Wilber Warke, N9RGE, of Lebanon, Illinois, asks: What happens to a dipole or random wire antenna if end-insulators are not used? Does it change the radiation pattern? What if the ends without insulators are left hanging down? Does that change the radiation from horizontal to vertical?

The Doctor Answers -- Wilbur, the insulators themselves don't change antenna performance. The insulators are designed to provide a high impedance path between the end of the antenna, usually a high voltage point, and the support structure. If the support is metal, without an insulator the current from the antenna will continue to the support and that will become part of the antenna. The resulting performance will depend on the size and shape of the support and how solid a connection there is between the antenna and the support -- but often it will be a poor and likely intermittent connection -- usually a recipe for a number of different problems. In the more typical case of a tree or other wooden structure, the impedance will be relatively high and it shouldn't matter too much until it gets wet -- then you could easily have a very unpredictable situation and likely be sending much of your

power into warming up the tree. Very dry tree branches also introduce the risk of fire, especially if high power is used.

With respect to "dangling ends," they don't need insulators if they will stay dangling in space. Whatever is holding up the antenna just before the dangle suffers as above. Unfortunately, if the dangling ends aren't secured, they have a tendency to get blown around and can get wrapped around the antenna or other nearby objects. If a "random wire" has both horizontal and vertical segments, each will radiate depending on the magnitude of the current in each segment -- this generally changes from band to band. Sometimes this can be used to good advantage.

In the case of a balanced half-wave dipole, if both ends are dangling the same amount, the vertical radiation will cancel in the direction of the main horizontal radiation lobe. There will be a small amount of vertical radiation, because the ends have less current than the center, in the direction of the dipole ends.

Antenna insulators are not expensive, so why not use them just to be safe. If you don't have a local source, consider making your own from scrap PVC pipe, or couplings. Just drill a hole through both sides at each end, de burr the holes and use them as insulators -- they are pretty close to free.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 49

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is now accepting applications for 55 academic year 2008-2009 scholarships to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2008. FAR fully funds 3 scholarships and administers 41 others without cost on behalf of various club & individual donors; grant income funds the remaining 11 awards. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$3000. Preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. More information and an application form may be requested by letter, via e-mail <scholarships@farweb.org> or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2008, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 1
January 11, 2008

New EMCOMM Software for Windows Now Available for BETA Testing

The NarrowBand Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) development team announced earlier this week that a Windows NBEMS software suite for beta testing is now available. NBEMS for Windows is a suite of software programs designed for point-to-point, error-free emergency messaging up to or over 100 miles distant.

According to developers Skip Teller, KH6TY and Dave Freese, W1HKJ, the NBEMS system is designed primarily for use on VHF and up, or on HF with NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antennas. The system uses the computer soundcard as the modem. Other than a simple interface connection between the computer and transceiver, no additional hardware is needed. Composing and sending emergency messages on NBEMS is no more difficult than sending e-mail via the Internet. All forwarding is done by stations manned by live operators on both ends who can confirm that a frequency is clear locally, or negotiate a frequency change to avoid causing interference.

The NBEMS software can also be used for daily casual communications on PSK31, PSK63, RTTY or MFSK16 and is capable of sending flawless, high resolution, passport photo-sized color images in less than 10 minutes over any path that can sustain PSK250 without excessive repeats.

Radio amateurs are invited to participate in the beta test of the NBEMS. The NBEMS suite can be downloaded for beta testing from the NBEMS Web site <<http://w1hkj.com/NBEMS/>>. Send comments and bug reports via e-mail <kh6ty@comcast.net>

*The main accomplishment of
almost all organized protests is to
annoy people who are not in them.*

TAKE 30 PROGRAM LAUNCHED**Murray Mac Donald VE1MMD**

Take 30 program – no this is not yet another Net but a program initiated by the HARC executive to ascertain the wishes and needs of the membership.

Shortly all members of the Club will be receiving a questionnaire inviting your input into the ongoing success of the Club. Through the efforts of many members over the past 75 years the Club has continued to provide service not only to the membership but also to the community at large.

The questionnaire should take no more than thirty (30) minutes of your time to complete – thus the name of the program – Take 30. Your participation is imperative as the Club strives to grow, to provide a variety of opportunities for all members of the Club and to ensure that members' needs are met.

A few things about the form, first and foremost once you have completed this form, the contents shall remain *confidential* and will only be seen by me. Once the final report has been presented to the membership, all forms shall be destroyed.

In most cases, the answer will require you to check an item indicating your preference (s), in other cases it will require you to select an answer ranging from Excellent to Poor, while in other cases a short written response is required. In any case the process should not take you more than thirty (30) minutes at the most. If you require more space than allocated on the form, please feel free to use a blank sheet to complete your answer.

Once completed, *please sign with your name and / or your call sign*, insert the form and any additional comment paper that you might have used in the self addressed, self-stamped envelope provided and drop it in the mail.

If you would like to have a confidential one on one interview to discuss your responses, I shall be available and pleased to meet with you at the Club facilities from March 1 to April 15th to meet with you, or at a location chosen by you. Please, either telephone me at 876-0661 to arrange for a meeting date and time, or indicate on the form by enclosing your telephone number in the space provided.

A bit about the process so far. At the January monthly general meeting Scott (VE1QD) and I (VE1MMD) gave a short presentation of the need for a review of the future direction of the Club. Following that meeting, a draft set of questions were prepared, and later reviewed by a number of Club members acting as a focus group. Following their input the form was finalized and presented to the Executive for approval. An update on the program is scheduled for the February monthly general meeting. Questionnaires will be out to all members by February 29th. Please return them to me no later than March 31st. Once the forms are received, a draft report will be prepared and reviewed by a focus group. From the report it is anticipated that a number of recommendations will be prepared based on the wishes and needs of the membership. Also a "Mission Statement" and associated "Guiding Principles" will be developed and presented to the membership for their approval. Once approval is received, the Club constitution, By-Laws and Policies will be updated to reflect any changes approved by the membership.

As you can see, your input is invaluable to the process, and I would strongly invite your participation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 876-0661.

Murray, VE1MMD

DIRECTIONS to the HARC

at the St. Andrews Center

The driveway is located a very short distance past the intersection of Bayers Road outbound and Romans Ave. You must be in the right hand lane on **Bayers Rd outbound** when you cross Romans Ave. If you see the Bayers Rd. Shopping Center directly to your left you have come too far!!

If you come in from the highway toward Bayers Road inbound you have some choices.

1/ Take Exit 0; turn right on to Dutch Village Rd; go to the lights and turn left onto Mumford Rd; turn left onto Romans Ave.; turn left onto Bayers Rd and get in the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

2/ Go straight in Bayers Rd (inbound); just before the Halifax Shopping Center turn right onto Vaughan Avenue and follow it to Romans Avenue, turn right onto Romans Avenue; go right along Romans to Bayers Road turn left onto Bayers Rd and get in the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

3/ Coming from Bedford or the McKay Bridge? Follow Connaught Ave to Bayers Rd.; turn and go outbound on Bayers Rd. in the right lane and turn right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

Hopefully you will have no trouble getting there – we will try to have someone monitoring 147.270 + for anyone who gets into difficulty.

Answer to Puzzler on page 1

In 1915 John R. Carson applied for a patent on single sideband transmission and by 1923 it was used on Trans-Atlantic radio circuits.

Customer: I have problems printing in red...

Tech Support:
Do you have a colour printer?



Customer: Aaaaah..... Thank you.